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*Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates*

## A YELLOW PERCH PROBLEM

Near the village of Rensselaerville, New York, about thirty miles southwest of Albany, two ponds are located. The smaller of the two is the higher, the overflow of this pond communicating with the lower pond by a small stream which is practically dry in hot weather. The water in this stream comes from the small pond over a dam of perhaps ten or twelve feet high. To my knowledge, fish inhabiting the two ponds are as follows: Small pond,—Perch, Pickerel, Sunfish; Large pond,—Perch, Pickerel and a few Black Bass.

In the four or five years I have gone to this locality, I have invariably caught very small Perch in the large pond and large ones in the small pond. In fact, with one exception, I have never caught anything over six or seven inches long in the large pond, and never caught anything as small as this in the small pond. I am, therefore, rather interested in the peculiar conditions which bring about this growth of the species. Can anyone throw some light on the subject?

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## NOTES ON MARINE FISHES OF NEW YORK.

Since the publication of *Fishes of the Vicinity of New York City, 1918*, American Museum of Natural

History, Handbook Series No. 7, additional data concerning the occurrence of some marine species within 50 miles of New York City has been obtained, which is presented herewith.

Hickory Shad (*Pomolobus mediocris*). A large one taken July 8 at Sandy Hook with the seine, proving that the species is present in local waters earlier than August.

Weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*). Leonard Hult states that a number of years ago he took a Weakfish of about six pounds' weight off Asbury Park, N. J., on December 6.

Goggle-eyed Scad (*Trachurops crumenophthalmus*). One of these fish, six inches in total length, was picked up quite fresh near high tide line on the beach at Long Beach, Long Island, October 12, 1920. This is a later date than mentioned in the "List of Local Fishes," but doubtless the species occurs still later in the fall, to correspond with dates mentioned by Latham for Orient (*Copeia*, Nos. 31 and 57). To judge from the colors which this individual still retained, the species must be a very beautiful one in life. It had a narrow yellow stripe from top of gill-cover to top of peduncle, bronzy on one side of the fish, greenish on the other. Below this stripe silver-white, iridescent with pinks and blues. Top of back dark, steel-blue in certain lights. On one side a dull sea-green area between this and the yellow stripe. Iris dark brown. Top of snout, and chin, blackish. Caudal dusky, darkest at the tips.

False Albacore (*Gymnosarda alleterata*). According to Mr. Van Campen Heilner this species is regularly rather common off the New Jersey coast in September. His earliest record of its capture is Spring Lake, August 23, 1916. The name. "Albacore," seems well established for it, which throws some doubt on reported occurrence locally of the true Albacore, *Germo alalunga*.

Cowfish (*Lactophrys tricornis*). Mr. J. A. Fisher of Sayville secured a small individual of this species near Fire Island Beach, Great South Bay (No. 7301, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.) about November 1, 1919. This is an addition to the local list.

Silver Hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*). Resident in small numbers, abundant in late fall and spring, uncommon in summer.

Cod (*Gadus callarias*). September 28, 1919 (N. Y. Sun of Sept. 30) is an early date for fall arrival of this species, which occurs occasionally and irregularly, usually small individuals, during the summer.

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## A NOTE ON THE CALIFORNIA SPECIES of *Osmerus*.

Contrary to the statement of Miss Fisk, the development of a single tooth at the tip of the tongue is not a diagnostic feature of *Osmerus attenuatus*<sup>1</sup>, for it is also developed in *O. thaleichthys* and in specimens at hand of *O. starksi*. There exists, however, an important difference in dentition, characteristic of *attenuatus*: in this species there is developed a moderate vomerine canine, often flanked on one side by a smaller tooth, and rather widely separated from the palatine teeth, of which the anteriormost is frequently enlarged to form a canine like that of the vomer. These features technically exclude *attenuatus* from the nominal genus *Spirinchus*, to which group it appears, nevertheless, to belong. *Spirinchus* (and *Eperlanio*) do not seem to the writer worthy of recognition, at least not as genera distinct from *Osmerus*.

Specimens corresponding in most respects with the original account of *Osmerus starksi*, a species lately described by Miss Fisk<sup>2</sup>, are of not infrequent, though perhaps never abundant occurrence in the San Fran-

<sup>1</sup>Lockington, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 3, 1880, p. 66; Jordan and Evermann. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 47, 1896, p. 523; Fisk, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 46, 1913, p. 294.

<sup>2</sup>Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 46, 1913, p. 293, text fig.